¹ ☐ Green Mountain Power Corporation's Searsburg Wind Project

The Vermont Public Service Board's Perspective

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October 24, 2001

² Presentation Outline

Description of the Public Service Board Siting Process

- · Review of Siting Criteria
- Description of Searsburg Critical Issues
- · Summary of Lessons Learned

³ Public Service Board Siting Process

Public Service Board

- · VT's Public Utility Commission
- · Three Members Appointed by Governor
- · Regulates Electric, Telephone, Gas, Cable and Water Companies in Vermont
- · Acts as Vermont's Siting Council

⁴ Public Service Board Siting Process (Continued)

<u>Jurisdiction</u>

Permit Required For:

- All Electric Generation and Transmission Facilities Proposed by Electric Utilities
- · All Generation Facilities Proposed by Others With Intent to Sell Output
- Includes Small Net-Metered PV and Wind Systems

PSB Review Preempts All Local Permits

⁵ Public Service Board's Siting Process (Continued)

Review Process:

- · Contested Case Proceeding
- Parties VT Department of Public Service, Agency of Natural Resources, Other State Agencies, and Other Interested Groups and Individuals
- For Searsburg the Parties Were: DPS, Green Mountain Forest Watch, a Neighbor, and the Regional Planning Commission

6 Public Service Board's Siting Process (Continued)

Hearings for Searsburg:

· One Public Hearing

- · Three Days of Technical (Evidentiary) Hearings
- · PSB Review Process Lasted About One Year
- · All Issues Were Thoroughly Reviewed and Resolved

⁷ PSB Siting Review Criteria

(30 VSA Sec. 248)

Criteria Applicable to Wind Projects:

- · Consistency With Local and Regional Plans
- Need For Project That Could Not Otherwise Be Met More Cost Effectively Through Energy Conservation Programs and Energy Efficiency
- · Effect on System Stability and Reliability

⁸ PSB Siting Criteria (Continued)

- · Will Provide an Economic Benefit to the State and Its Ratepayers
- Will Not Have an Undue Adverse Effect on Aesthetics, Historic Sites, Air and Water Purity, the Natural Environment, and the Public Health and Safety (This Criterion further defined by Environmental Criteria of Vermont Land Use Control Law - Act 250)

⁹ PSB Siting Criteria (Continued)

- · Is Consistent With a Utility Company's Least Cost Integrated Plan
- · Complies With the Department of Public Service's Electric Energy Plan
- · Can Be Served Economically By Existing or Planned Transmission Facilities

10 Searsburg Issues Raised During Review

- Economics of Plant: Is the Cost of the Project Justified and Does It Provide a Net Benefit to Ratepayers?
- Environmental Issues: Esthetics and Scenic and Natural Beauty, Noise, Soil Erosion, Wildlife Issues (Including Effects on Birds and Bears), and Conformance With Regional Plan

11 How Did GMP Address These Issues?

Economics of Plant

- GMP Was Able to Show That Costs of Plant Output Approximated Its Avoided Cost Environmental Issues - Addressed in Three Ways
- GMP's Site Selection Process Avoided or Minimized Impacts for Many Issues
- Company's Extensive Community Education and Outreach (Which Included Meetings with All Interested Groups and Organizations) Diffused or Eliminated Many Local Objections

12 How Did GMP Address Issues?

(Continued)

 Hired Credible Technical Experts Who Addressed Noise and Visual Issues, Landscaping, Archeological Resources, Wildlife Habitat Concerns, and the Potential for Runoff and Soil Erosion

13 🗖 Lessons Learned

Site Selection Process Is Critical

- · Avoid Areas with High Visibility from Concentrations of Population
- Avoid Significant Natural Features or Resources (Like Appalachian Trail)
- Minimize Impacts on Other Significant Environmental Resources
- Be Flexible Adjust Project to Meet Needs of Local Community

14 🗖 Lessons Learned

(Continued)

Public Education and Outreach

- Have as Open Planning Process as Possible
- Provide Information to Affected Public as Soon as Possible
- · Commit to Meet With Any Interested Community Groups and Organizations

15 Lessons Learned

(Continued)

Technical Issues

• Hire Credible Technical Experts to Address All Significant Environmental Issues Raised

Conclusion

With Proper Advance Planning and Public Involvement and a Commitment to Address All Issues
Using Credible Experts, the Permitting Process is Not a Barrier to Wind Development in New
England